IND.
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
56 JAN.
10¢
WE'RE TOO LATE! ZOG IS FREE!! FREE TO DESTROY US!
"I BROUGHT ZOG THE UNBELIEVABLE, BACK TO LIFE!"

HE WAS SAFELY ENTOMBED IN THE ICEBERG, FLOATING HARMLESSLY IN THE COLD DEEP SEA... AND FOR COUNTLESS AGES HE WOULD HAVE REMAINED THERE, IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR *ME!* FOR I AM CHARLES BURTON, THE SCIENTIST WHO DARED DEFY MANKIND! I AM THE ONE THEY CALLED *TRAITOR*, ON THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN...

I BROUGHT ZOG BACK TO LIFE!

ZOG IS OUT OF THE ICEBERG!
BURTON *FREED* HIM--AND NOW HE'S HEADING *THIS* WAY!!
WE'D BETTER RUN FOR OUR LIVES WHILE THERE'S STILL *TIME!!*
RUN?? RUN *WHERE??* WHEN THAT COLOSSUS GETS HERE, THERE WON'T BE A SAFE SPOT ON THIS *CONTINENT!*
HE'LL TRAMPLE OUR CIVILIZATION INTO DUST, AND THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP HIM! WE'RE ALL *DOOMED!!*

IT BEGAN WHEN AN AIR FORCE BOMBER SIGHTED THE ICEBERG FLOATING IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC...
HOLY SMOKE! LOOK DOWN THERE! LOOK WHAT'S IN THAT ICEBERG!
IT'S SOME KIND OF GIGANTIC CREATURE!
THERE'S A WORD ENGRAVED IN THE ICE--"ZOG"! THAT MUST BE ITS NAME!
WE'D BETTER RADIO IN! THIS IS ONE DISCOVERY THE WORLD'S GONNA WANT TO KNOW ABOUT, RIGHT AWAY!
ZOG
AS SOON AS THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED, SCIENTISTS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE EARTH WENT TO EXAMINE THE ICEBERG AND ITS AWESOME CONTENT! I WAS ONE OF THEM!
I'VE BEEN AN ARCHEOLOGIST FOR FORTY YEARS, AND I'D STAKE MY REPUTATION THAT THIS "ZOG" DOESN'T COME FROM EARTH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, BURTON?
I AGREE WITH YOU! NOTHING THAT BIG COULD HAVE BEEN BORN ON THIS PLANET!
IN SOME UNEXPLAINABLE WAY, ZOG MUST HAVE COME FROM OUTER SPACE!
FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, AFTER REACHING EARTH, HE WAS ENTOMBED IN THAT GLACIER!
MAYBE AS A PUNISHMENT! LIKE BEING PUT IN EXILE!
I THINK WE'D BETTER REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS, IMMEDIATELY!
AND SOON AFTERWARDS..!
GENTLEMEN, OUR SCIENTISTS DON'T KNOW WHY THAT CREATURE IS ON OUR PLANET, BUT THEY DO KNOW IF HE WERE EVER FREE OF THAT GLACIER--HE COULD MENACE OUR ENTIRE WORLD!
2

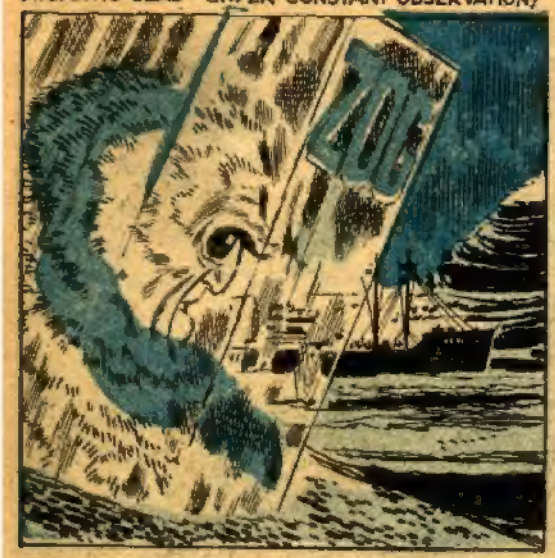
ZOG IS AT LEAST A THOUSAND FEET HIGH! IF HE WANTED TO ATTACK US, WE COULDN'T STOP HIM! EVEN OUR ATOMIC WEAPONS MIGHT NOT DESTROY HIM!

AS HE APPROACHED OUR CONTINENTS, HE COULD STIR UP HUGE TIDAL WAVES THAT WOULD FLOOD OUR COASTAL REGIONS...

AND WHEN HE THUNDERED *INLAND*--LIKE A WALKING, SMASHING, TRAMPLING NIGHTMARE, HE COULD CRUSH WHOLE CITIES OUT OF EXISTENCE...

GENTLEMEN, ZOG IS THE GREATEST DANGER THAT WE HAVE EVER KNOWN...AND FOR THE SAKE OF OUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION, WE MUST SEE THAT HE NEVER BREAKS OUT OF THAT ICEBERG!
RIGHT! AS LONG AS HE'S FROZEN IN THAT THING, WE'RE SAFE!
NO ATTEMPT MUST EVER BE MADE TO TAMPER WITH THAT ICEBERG--FOR FEAR OF *RELEASING* THE MONSTER!
DA! THIS TIME MY PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT AGREES WITH YOU!
3

AND SO IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, THE IMPRISONED CREATURE CONTINUED TO DRIFT AIMLESSLY IN THE COLD AND LONELY NORTH ATLANTIC SEAS — UNDER CONSTANT OBSERVATION!



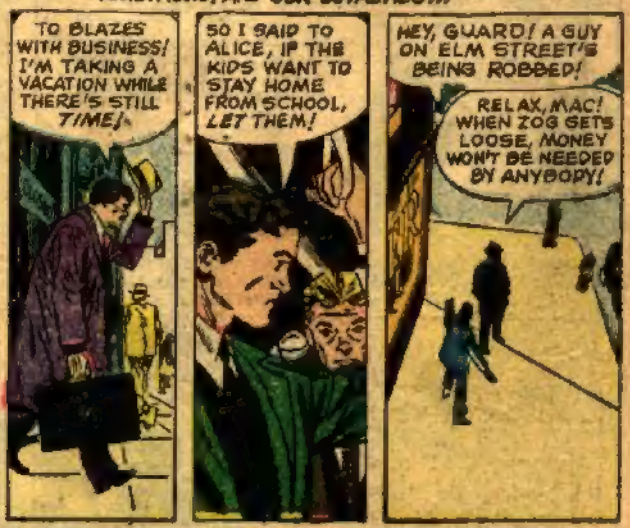
BUT THO' WE SEEMED TEMPORARILY SAFE FROM ZOG, THERE WAS SOMETHING WE *WEREN'T* PROTECTED AGAINST — AND THAT WAS *FEAR!*

BOY! I GET THE *CREEPS* EVERY TIME WE SAIL PAST THAT THING!
YEAH, ME TOO! — I KEEP EXPECTING HIM TO BREAK OUT OF THE ICE!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! IT'S LIKE SITTING ON A KEG OF DYNAMITE THAT CAN EXPLODE *ANY TIME!*

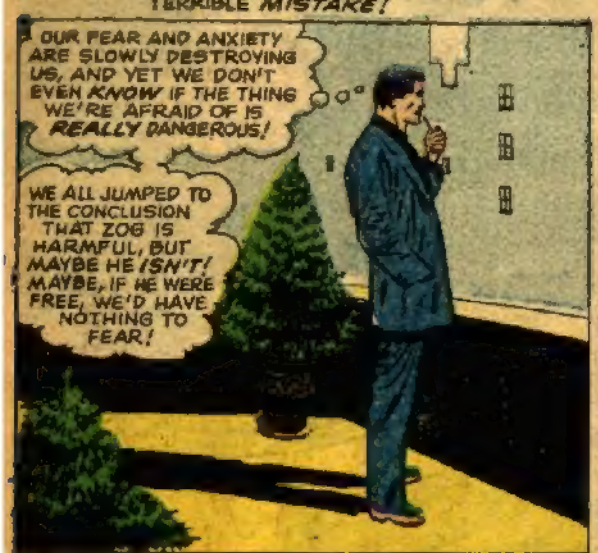
IT DID NOT TAKE LONG FOR THE FEAR TO MOUNT AND SPREAD...

I JUST DOUBLED MY LIFE INSURANCE!
WHAT GOOD'LL *THAT* DO? IF ZOG GETS FREE, THERE MIGHT NOT *BE* ANY LIVING BENEFICIARIES TO *COLLECT* IT!
MAN! LAST NIGHT I HAD *ANOTHER* NIGHTMARE ABOUT ZOG!
YOU'RE LUCKY! I CAN'T *SLEEP!*

THE GROWING FEAR WEAKENED OUR MORALE, OUR AMBITIONS, AND OUR LOYALTIES...


TO BLAZES WITH BUSINESS! I'M TAKING A VACATION WHILE THERE'S STILL *TIME!*
SO I SAID TO ALICE, IF THE KIDS WANT TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL, *LET THEM!*
HEY, GUARD! A GUY ON ELM STREET'S BEING ROBBED!
RELAX, MAC! WHEN ZOG GETS LOOSE, MONEY WON'T BE NEEDED BY ANYBODY!

BY NOW, I BEGAN TO FEEL WE HAD ALL MADE A TERRIBLE *MISTAKE!*


OUR FEAR AND ANXIETY ARE SLOWLY DESTROYING US, AND YET WE DON'T EVEN *KNOW* IF THE THING WE'RE AFRAID OF IS *REALLY* DANGEROUS!
WE ALL JUMPED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT ZOG IS HARMFUL, BUT MAYBE HE *ISN'T!* MAYBE, IF WE WERE FREE, WE'D HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

AND SO I WENT TO THE AUTHORITIES, BUT THEY WOULDN'T TOUCH MY PROPOSAL WITH A TEN FOOT POLE!

CAN YOU BEAT *THAT*? BURTON WANTING US TO TURN LOOSE THE GREATEST MENACE WE'VE EVER KNOWN!

IF I DIDN'T KNOW HIS FINE REPUTATION AS A SCIENTIST, I'D SAY HE WAS MAD!

AFTERWARDS, I WENT ON TELEVISION, TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO THE PEOPLE...

...AND THERE'S NOT THE LEAST BIT OF PROOF THAT ZOG WOULD ATTACK US! WE MUST FREE HIM, SO WE CAN END OUR CRIPPLING FEAR!

IS HE *KIDDING*?! THAT WOULDN'T ONLY END OUR *FEAR*... IT WOULD END OUR *LIVES*!!

TOSS THE CRACKPOT OUT!

BOO!

THEY OUGHTA SLAP 'IM IN *JAIL*!

HE'S SPREADING DANGEROUS IDEAS!

HE'LL START A PANIC!

YOU'D BETTER SCRAM, PROFESSOR! THE CROWD'S GETTING UGLY!

WHEN I RETURNED TO MY LABORATORY, I DECIDED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS...

THIS THERMO-LIQUIFYING BOMB OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK...

THE NEXT DAY, I FLEW TO GREENLAND! THERE, I RENTED A SMALL PLANE AND HEADED OUT TO SEA--- OUT TOWARD THE *GLACIER*!

THERE IT IS, UP AHEAD!

AS I FLEW OVER IT, *I DROPPED THE BOMB*!...IT HIT THE TARGET, AND WITH A SLIGHT EXPLOSION SPILLED ITS CONTENTS ACROSS THE ICY SURFACE...

THAT MIXTURE OUGHT TO HAVE THE ICEBERG MELTED WITHIN A FEW HOURS!

HISS-SSS

THEN I FLEW BACK TO GREENLAND...BUT EVEN AS I ARRIVED, THE AUTHORITIES WERE WAITING FOR ME!!

THERE HE IS! GRAB HIM, MEN!

THEY WASTED NO TIME IN GIVING ME WHAT WAS PROBABLY THE QUICKEST TRIAL IN HISTORY! THE CHARGE WAS TREASON! THE VERDICT WAS GUILTY! AND MY SENTENCE WAS EXECUTION!
BEFORE ZOG ATTACKS, WE'LL AT LEAST HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING WE METED OUT JUSTICE TO THE MAN WHO BETRAYED US!
READY-- AIM--
BUT SUDDENLY...
STOP! STOP THE EXECUTION!
BRING THE PRISONER TO THE COURTHOUSE RIGHT AWAY!
I WAS TAKEN TO THE COURTHOUSE -- AND TO THE COUNCIL ROOM...
COME OVER HERE, BURTON! WE'VE BEEN WATCHING ZOG ON THE TELEVISION! THE GLACIER MELTED AND HE'S FREE! BUT SO FAR HE'S MADE NO ATTEMPT TO INVADE US!
LOOK! HE'S GOING BELOW THE SURFACE!
I DON'T GET THIS! WHAT'S HE UP TO?!!
TENSE MINUTES PASSED INTO HOURS! AND THEN...
HE'S BACK! IN ANOTHER GLACIER!
HE WANTS TO BE ENCASED IN ICE!
YES! AND THIS GIVES US THE EXPLANATION OF "ZOG"!
THAT ALIEN CREATURE OBVIOUSLY COMES FROM A PLANET MUCH COLDER THAN OURS! WHILE TRAVELING THRU SPACE, HE SOMEHOW GOT STRANDED HERE! AND SO, IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, HE ENCASES HIMSELF IN ICE!
NOW HE MUST BE WAITING TO BE RESCUED, AND TO HELP HIS CHANCES HE'S DONE WHAT ANY ONE OF US WOULD DO! THE WORD "ZOG" WHICH HE ENGRAVED, IS NOT HIS NAME, BUT A DISTRESS SIGNAL-- SIMILAR TO OUR S.O.S.!
THE AUTHORITIES THERE AND THRUOUT THE WORLD, ALL AGREED WITH MY EXPLANATION... AND FEAR SOON LEFT OUR PLANET! I WAS THEN ACCLAIMED A HERO, AND PRESENTED WITH COUNTLESS AWARDS, HONORS, AND APOLOGIES!
WE YET HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO LEARN... BUT MOST OF ALL, WE MUST LEARN TO HAVE FAITH! FAITH IN THE OTHER DWELLERS IN OUR UNIVERSE! FAITH IN THE UNKNOWN, DISTANT CREATURES WHICH SOMEDAY WE MAY MEET!
THE END

AS I CROUCHED IN FEAR, I WATCHED THEM! I SAW THEIR GHASTLY, GLOWING FORMS MOVE ACROSS THE COLD STONE FLOOR! IT WAS A NIGHTMARE COME TO LIFE, AND IT ALL HAPPENED THE TIME THAT...

I SPENT A NIGHT IN THE HAUNTED LIGHTHOUSE!

NOW I KNOW THE SECRET OF THIS LIGHTHOUSE! THE FANTASTIC, UNBELIEVABLE SECRET! BUT IF THEY CATCH ME, I'LL NEVER LIVE TO REVEAL IT! IT WILL REMAIN HIDDEN FROM THE WORLD, FOREVER!
JOE SINNOTT
PROOF

IT WAS LAST YEAR WHEN SOME FRIENDS OF MINE WHO WERE SPENDING THE SUMMER ON THE NEW ENGLAND COAST, INVITED ME FOR A WEEK-END...
WE'RE GLAD YOU WERE ABLE TO VISIT US FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS, JOHN!
THANKS, I AM TOO! THIS BRISK SEA AIR MAKES ME FEEL TEN YEARS YOUNGER!
SAY, I'VE BEEN LOOKING AT THAT LIGHTHOUSE, AND I CAN'T TELL...IS IT INHABITED?
NO, IT'S BEEN ABANDONED FOR YEARS!
THIS'LL GIVE YOU A LAUGH, JOHN! THE YOKELS IN THESE PARTS CLAIM THE LIGHTHOUSE IS HAUNTED! NONE OF THEM WILL EVEN GO NEAR THE PLACE!
HAUNTED??! YOU MUST BE KIDDING!
NO, I'M SERIOUS! THAT'S WHAT THEY'VE BEEN TELLING US SINCE WE CAME UP HERE!
CAN YOU IMAGINE PEOPLE IN THIS DAY AND AGE BELIEVING IN GHOSTS?! UNLESS THESE JOKERS ARE JUST PULLING OUR LEG... TRYING TO GIVE THE PLACE SOME LOCAL COLOR!
I THINK THEY REALLY BELIEVE THAT NONSENSE!
LATER THAT AFTERNOON...
JOHN, WE HAVE TO RUN INTO TOWN TO GET SOME THINGS! WANT TO COME ALONG?
NO, THANKS. IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, I'D LIKE TO GO OUT AND DO SOME FISHING FOR AWHILE!
SURE, GO AHEAD! WE'LL SEE YOU BACK AT THE HOUSE TONIGHT!
BUT I WAS ONLY OUT AT SEA FOR A LITTLE WHILE WHEN...
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THIS OVERCAST SKY!
SUDDENLY, IT GREW OMINOUSLY DARK, AND LESS THAN A MINUTE LATER THE STORM STARTED...
I'D BETTER HEAD BACK, RIGHT AWAY!
BUT BEFORE I COULD BEGIN TO TURN AROUND...
THE BOAT... IT'S CAPSIZING!!

THE SWIRLING SEA FELT LIKE ICE, AS I TRIED TO HEAD FOR ONE BIT OF LAND WITHIN SWIMMING DISTANCE...

GOTTA GET TO THAT LIGHTHOUSE, OR I'LL DROWN...

IT TOOK EVERY BIT OF STRENGTH I HAD, TO SWIM THRU THE STORM-TOSSED SEA! THE WIND AND RAIN CUT AT MY SKIN, AND MY MUSCLES SEEMED TO TURN TO RUBBER AS I FOUGHT MY WAY THRU THE SURGING WAVES...

FINALLY I DID IT! I REACHED THE SMALL ISLAND, AND DRAGGED MYSELF ASHORE...

GOTTA GET INSIDE THE LIGHTHOUSE... BEFORE THE STORM WASHES ME OFF THIS CLIFF!

THE TOWER WAS OLD AND WEATHER-BEATEN, AND THE DOOR CREAKED LOUDLY INTO THE HOWLING WIND...

THE STORM WILL PROBABLY KEEP UP THRU THE NIGHT! I'LL STAY IN HERE TILL THE MORNING, WHEN THE GUYS ARE ABLE TO COME LOOKING FOR ME!

CREEEAAK

OUT OF A CURIOSITY THAT WAS PROMPTED BY THE STORY I'D HEARD SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER, I DECIDED TO EXPLORE THE LIGHTHOUSE. WHEN I HAD FINISHED...

WELL, I'VE LOOKED THIS PLACE OVER FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND I HAVEN'T FOUND MAN, NOR BEAST, NOR GHOST! THO' I DIDN'T ACTUALLY EXPECT TO! THE PLACE IS DISMAL AND GLOOMY ENOUGH, BUT IT'S STILL A FAR CRY FROM BEING *HAUNTED!*

THEN, A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT, JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO FALL ASLEEP, IT *HAPPENED!!*

THE *LIGHT!!* IT *WENT ON!!* BUT THERE'S NOBODY HERE THAT TOUCHED IT! HOW COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED — UNLESS SOME KIND OF A FREAK ACCIDENT OCCURRED?!

I WENT OVER TO THE WINDOW AND WATCHED THE POWERFUL BEAM SHINE THRU THE RAIN AND SPRAY THE STORM...

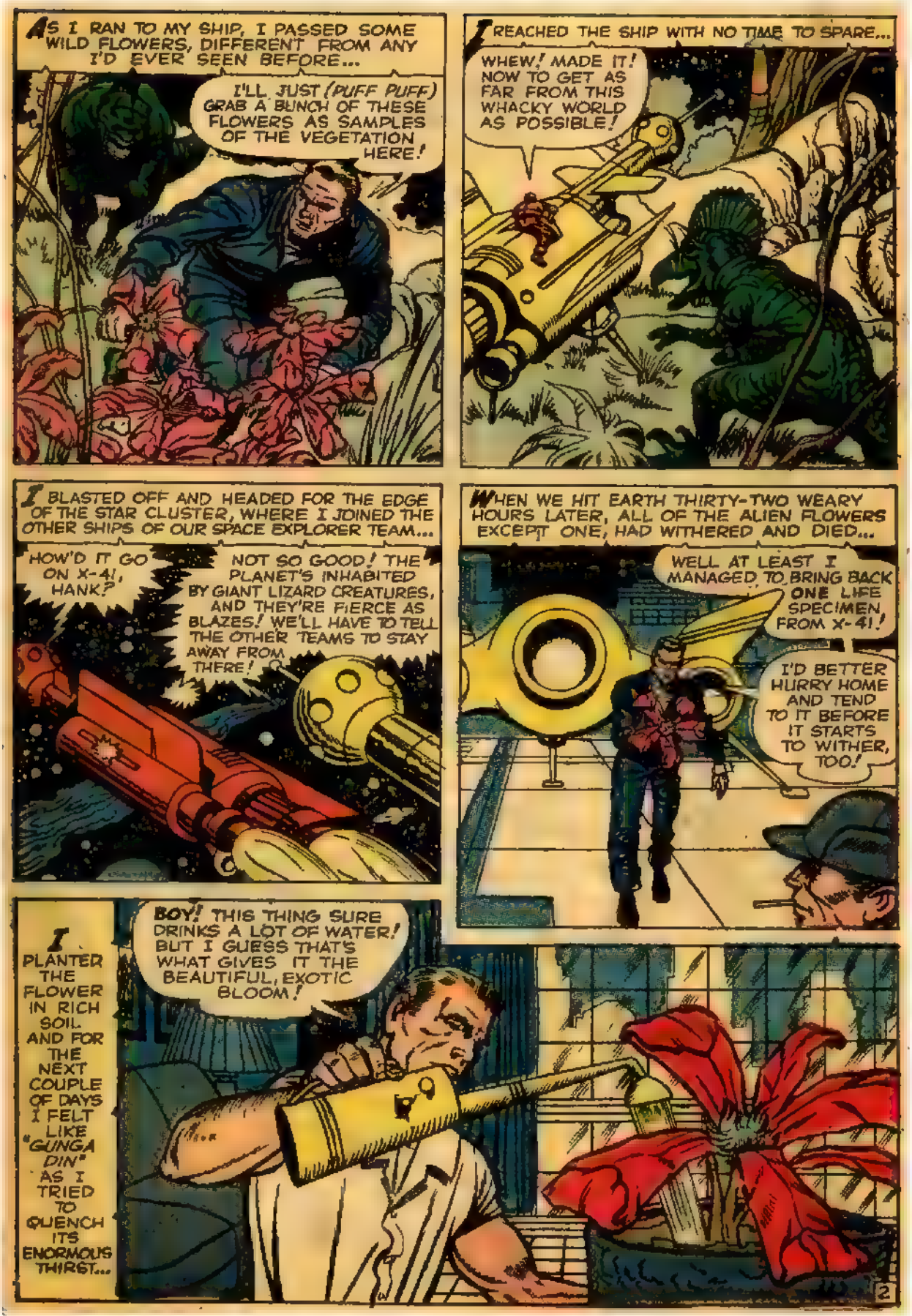
THERE SEEMS TO BE A *SHIP* OUT THERE! WITH A STRANGE *GLOW* ABOUT IT! AND IT'S FOLLOWING THE LIGHT! — IT'S COMING *THIS* WAY!

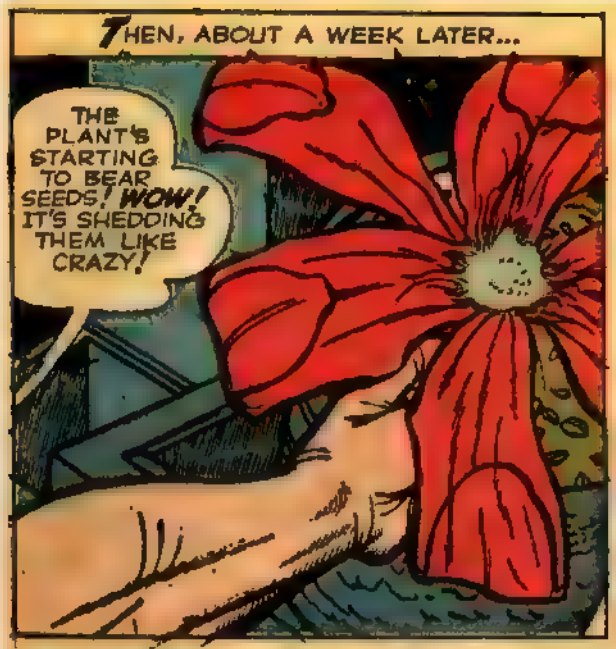
IN THE MIDST OF THE RAGING STORM, THE APPROACHING SHIP WAS HARDLY DISCERNIBLE... IT WAS ONLY A FAINT, EERIE GLOW THAT GREW LARGER AS IT CAME CLOSER! THEN, WHEN IT WAS NEAR THE ISLAND, IT STOPPED, AND SOME SMALL BOATS WERE LOWERED INTO THE WATER...
THE CREW MANNED THE BOATS AND THEN, LIKE GLARING SPECTERS FROM THE NETHER WORLD, THEY ROWED TO THE ISLAND...
AM I REALLY SEEING THIS, OR ARE THE WIND AND THE RAIN CAUSING MY EYES TO PLAY TRICKS ON ME??!!
REAL OR ILLUSORY, THEY LANDED ON THE ISLAND, AND AS THE WIND MOANED OMINOUSLY...
T-THEY'RE COMING HERE --- TO THE LIGHTHOUSE!
BANG
AT FIRST, I HARDLY DARED BREATHE! I HID MYSELF AND WATCHED THE DOOR TO THE TOWER! BUT WHEN THEY CAME... WHEN THE GHASTLY, GLOWING APPARITIONS CAME... IT WAS NOT THRU THE DOOR... BUT THRU THE WALL...
I MUST BE GOING MAD! THINGS LIKE THIS DON'T EXIST!! THEY CAN'T EXIST!!!... AND YET, IT SEEMS SO REAL... SO UNBELIEVABLY REAL!

THEN FROM THE LUMINOUS MIST BELOW, I HEARD A VOICE...DEEP AND BOOMING!
START LOADING THE SUPPLIES ABOARD OUR SHIP..
YES, CAPTAIN...
AND WHILE MY HEART POUNDED FEARFULLY, MY EYES REMAINED TRANSFIXED ON THE GHOSTLY IMAGES THAT WERE CARRYING CRATES OUTSIDE THE TOWER! SUDDENLY ONE OF THEM AGAIN SPOKE...
CAPTAIN, I HAVE A FEELING THAT THERE IS SOMEBODY IN THE LIGHTHOUSE WATCHING US!
NO! NO ONE WOULD DARE TO COME HERE! THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON THE MAINLAND KNOW THIS IS OUR DOMAIN, AND THAT IF WE EVER FOUND ONE OF THEM HERE...
...WE WOULD DESTROY HIM!
THE FOLLOWING MINUTES SEEMED LIKE AN ETERNITY, UNTIL I HEARD...
OUR SUPPLIES ARE ALL ABOARD, CAPTAIN!
ALL RIGHT, MEN...BACK TO THE SHIP!
WHEN THEY LEFT, I FELT AS THO' THE SHADOW OF DOOM HAD BEEN LIFTED FROM ME! I REMAINED IN THE LIGHTHOUSE UNTIL MORNING, WHEN THE STORM ENDED! THEN I RAN OUTSIDE AND WAITED FOR MY FRIENDS, WHO SOON CAME ALONG...
JOHN! THANK HEAVEN YOU WERE ABLE TO GET TO THE LIGHTHOUSE!
WE WERE AFRAID YOU'D DROWNED!
I'M ALL RIGHT...BUT MAN, I NEVER WAS SO GLAD TO SEE ANYONE BEFORE!
5
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

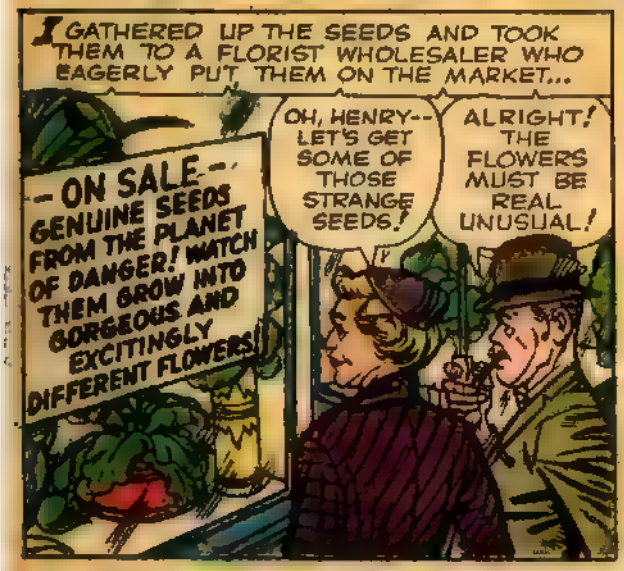
AS I TOLD MY FRIENDS ABOUT THE EVENTS OF THE NIGHT BEFORE, I SAW THE GROWING DISBELIEF IN THEIR EYES! FINALLY...
...AND THAT'S THE STORY, JUST AS IT HAPPENED!
BUT JOHN, THIS IS SHEER NONSENSE! YOU KNOW AS WELL AS WE DO THAT THERE'S NO SUCH THINGS AS GHOSTS! THERE ARE NO SUPERNATURAL BEINGS!
IT'S THAT TALE ABOUT THE LIGHTHOUSE BEING HAUNTED WHICH WE TOLD YOU YESTERDAY! THAT MUST'VE IMPRESSED YOU MORE THAN YOU REALIZED, AND WHEN YOU WERE IN THIS GLOOMY PLACE DURING THE FRIGHTENING STORM, YOUR MIND TEMPORARILY PLAYED SOME TRICKS ON YOU!
YOU IMAGINED THE EERIE SHIP AND CREW, AND THO' IT WAS ONLY IN YOUR MIND, I'M SURE TO YOU IT SEEMED VERY REAL!
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING OCCURRED TO ME ALSO, AND FOR A WHILE I THOUGHT I REALLY MIGHT HAVE IMAGINED OR DREAMED THE WHOLE THING...
BUT THEN, THIS MORNING I FOUND THIS...
AND I KNEW THAT I WOULD NEVER AGAIN...
...DOUBT THE EXISTENCE OF THE SUPERNATURAL!
FLYING DUTCHMAN
THE END

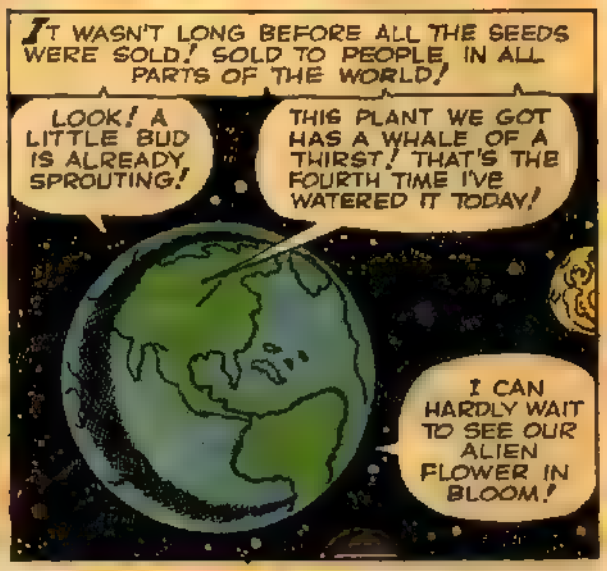
THE NAME'S HANK GARNETT, AND SINCE 1980 I'VE BEEN AN INTERGALACTIC EXPLORER! SOMETIMES I PICK CHOICE PLANETS TO INVESTIGATE AND SOMETIMES I GET REAL LEMONS! BUT FOR SHEER DANGER AND HIDDEN HAZARDS, NOTHING CAN MATCH THE PERIL OF PLANET X-41, THE UNBELIEVABLE WORLD I LANDED ON LAST YEAR...
I PLANTED THE SEEDS OF DOOM!
GOTTA (GASP) MAKE IT BACK TO THE SHIP BEFORE THESE THINGS CATCH UP WITH ME! OTHERWISE, I'M A GONER!


AS I RAN TO MY SHIP, I PASSED SOME WILD FLOWERS, DIFFERENT FROM ANY I'D EVER SEEN BEFORE...
I'LL JUST (PUFF PUFF) GRAB A BUNCH OF THESE FLOWERS AS SAMPLES OF THE VEGETATION HERE!
I REACHED THE SHIP WITH NO TIME TO SPARE...
WHEW! MADE IT! NOW TO GET AS FAR FROM THIS WHACKY WORLD AS POSSIBLE!
I BLASTED OFF AND HEADED FOR THE EDGE OF THE STAR CLUSTER, WHERE I JOINED THE OTHER SHIPS OF OUR SPACE EXPLORER TEAM...
HOW'D IT GO ON X-4!, HANK?
NOT SO GOOD! THE PLANET'S INHABITED BY GIANT LIZARD CREATURES, AND THEY'RE FIERCE AS BLAZES! WE'LL HAVE TO TELL THE OTHER TEAMS TO STAY AWAY FROM THERE!
WHEN WE HIT EARTH THIRTY-TWO WEARY HOURS LATER, ALL OF THE ALIEN FLOWERS EXCEPT ONE, HAD WITHERED AND DIED...
WELL AT LEAST I MANAGED TO BRING BACK ONE LIFE SPECIMEN FROM X-4!
I'D BETTER HURRY HOME AND TEND TO IT BEFORE IT STARTS TO WITHER, TOO!
I PLANTER THE FLOWER IN RICH SOIL AND FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS I FELT LIKE "GUNGA DIN" AS I TRIED TO QUENCH ITS ENORMOUS THIRST...
BOY! THIS THING SURE DRINKS A LOT OF WATER! BUT I GUESS THAT'S WHAT GIVES IT THE BEAUTIFUL, EXOTIC BLOOM!
2


THEN, ABOUT A WEEK LATER...
THE PLANT'S STARTING TO BEAR SEEDS! WOW! IT'S SHEDDING THEM LIKE CRAZY!

THIS SEEDING CONTINUED UNTIL...
IT'S AMAZING! THE PLANT HAS SHED THOUSANDS OF SEEDS!
SAY--THIS GIVES ME AN IDEA! I'LL BET THESE THINGS WOULD SELL LIKE HOT CAKES!


I GATHERED UP THE SEEDS AND TOOK THEM TO A FLORIST WHOLESALER WHO EAGERLY PUT THEM ON THE MARKET...
--ON SALE--GENUINE SEEDS FROM THE PLANET OF DANGER! WATCH THEM GROW INTO GORGEOUS AND EXCITINGLY DIFFERENT FLOWERS!
OH, HENRY--LET'S GET SOME OF THOSE STRANGE SEEDS!
ALRIGHT! THE FLOWERS MUST BE REAL UNUSUAL!


IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE ALL THE SEEDS WERE SOLD! SOLD TO PEOPLE IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD!
LOOK! A LITTLE BUD IS ALREADY SPROUTING!
THIS PLANT WE GOT HAS A WHALE OF A THIRST! THAT'S THE FOURTH TIME I'VE WATERED IT TODAY!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE OUR ALIEN FLOWER IN BLOOM!

AND THEN IT HAPPENED!!!
STRANGE... THE FLOWER LOOKS LARGER THAN IT DID A FEW MINUTES AGO!

IT IS LARGER! AND IT'S STILL GROWING!! IT'S GROWING SO FAST THAT I CAN ACTUALLY SEE IT EXPANDING!

GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT KIND OF LIFE FORM IS THIS!?? WHAT HAVE I BROUGHT BACK TO EARTH?

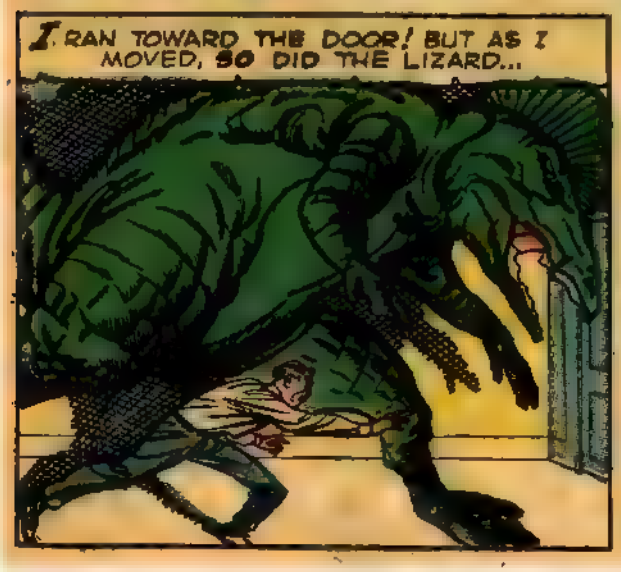
IT'S STOPPED GROWING! BUT NOW--NOW IT'S --NO!! IT CAN'T BE!! THIS IS TOO MONSTROUS!!
3

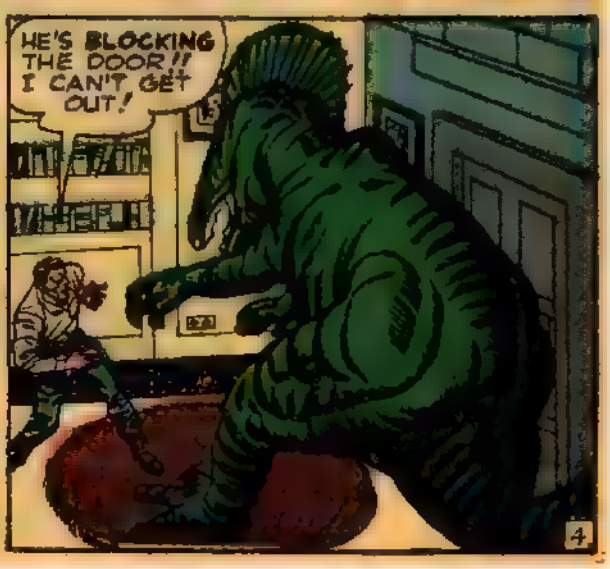
THE FLOWER'S CHANGING ITS SHAPE!! IT'S BECOMING LIKE--LIKE--

IT'S TURNED INTO ONE OF THE GIANT LIZARDS OF PLANET X-4!!!

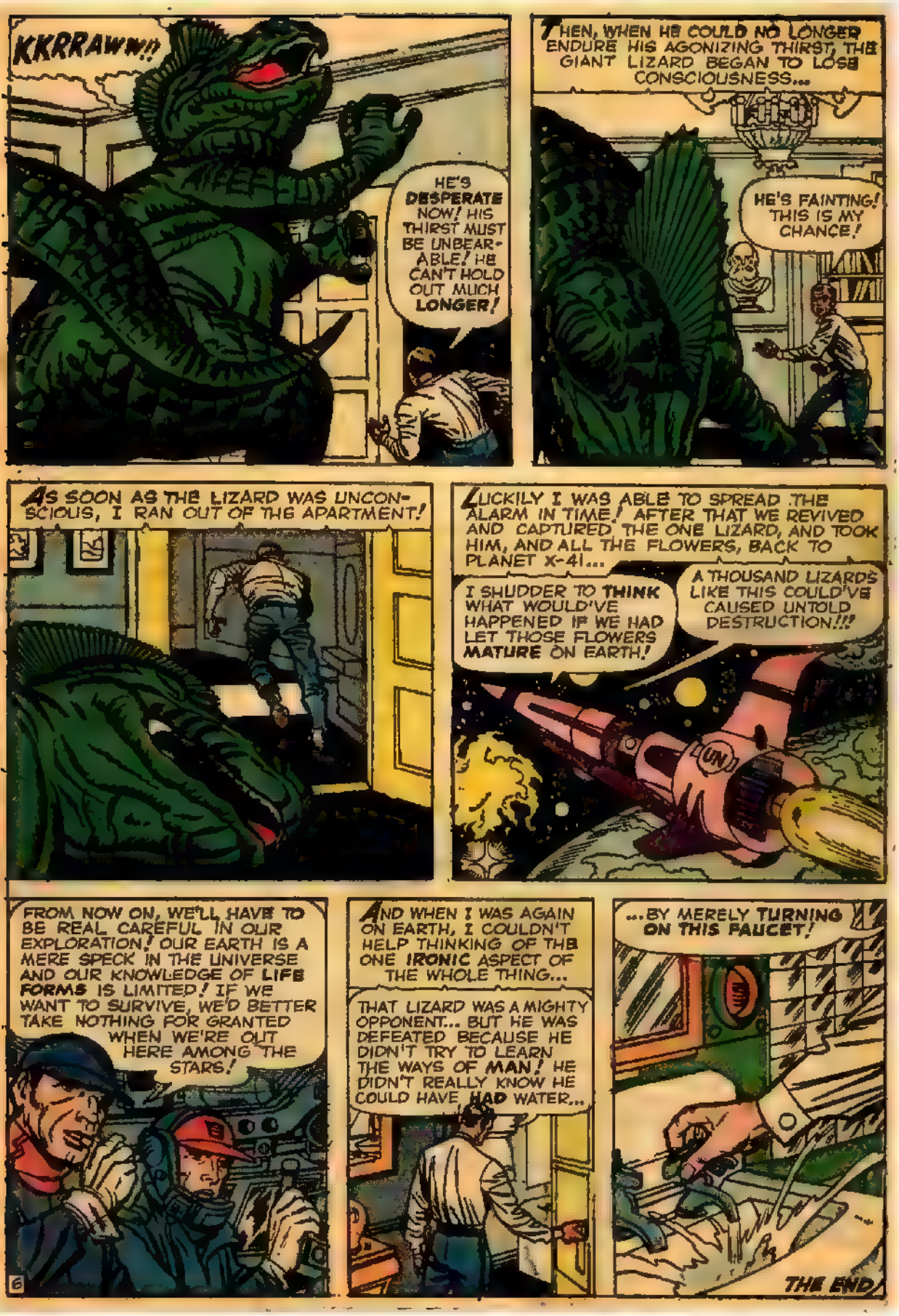
WHAT A FOOL MISTAKE I MADE!! JUST BECAUSE THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE FORMS ON EARTH ARE SEPARATE, I FIGURED IT WAS THAT WAY THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE!
BUT IT'S NOT! IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE ANIMALS COME FROM A PLANT SOURCE-- AND THIS (GASP) THING IS THE LIVING PROOF!

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST--BEFORE IT DECIDES TO ATTACK!! I HAVE TO WARN THE WORLD ABOUT THESE PLANTS, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!! BEFORE THE OTHER FLOWERS GROW INTO LIZARDS!!


I RAN TOWARD THE DOOR! BUT AS I MOVED, SO DID THE LIZARD...


HE'S BLOCKING THE DOOR!! I CAN'T GET OUT!

HE MUST KNOW! HIS INSTINCT MUST BE TELLING HIM WHY I WANT TO GET OUT OF THE APARTMENT!! THAT I WANT TO STOP THE GROWTH OF THE FLOWERS!
OF COURSE!!! THOSE PLANTS ARE HIS OFFSPRING AND HE'S PROTECTING THEM-- UNTIL THEY TOO CAN TURN INTO LIZARDS!
BUT IF THAT HAPPENS, THEY'LL OVERRUN OUR PLANET! THEY'LL BE A THREAT TO ALL OF EARTH!!
FOR AGONIZING SECONDS I JUST STOOD THERE... WAITING... WATCHING... AND THEN SUDDENLY...
ARGHHH!!
SOMETHING'S BOTHERING HIM! HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN PAIN! NO, WAIT... IT'S NOT THAT! IT'S SOMETHING ELSE! OF COURSE!! THAT'S WHAT IT IS! HE GREW FROM A PLANT-- AND HE STILL HAS A PLANT'S NEEDS!
HE NEEDS WATER!
BRRACKKK!! BRRACKKK!!
HE'S LOOKING TOWARD THE CEILING--TOWARD THE SKY! HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THERE'S NO RAIN TO QUENCH HIS THIRST!
ON X-41, HIS HOME PLANET, IT RAINED EVERY QUARTER-HOUR!!


KKRRAWN!!
HE'S DESPERATE NOW! HIS THIRST MUST BE UNBEARABLE! HE CAN'T HOLD OUT MUCH LONGER!
THEN, WHEN HE COULD NO LONGER ENDURE HIS AGONIZING THIRST, THE GIANT LIZARD BEGAN TO LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS...
HE'S FAINTING! THIS IS MY CHANCE!
AS SOON AS THE LIZARD WAS UNCONSCIOUS, I RAN OUT OF THE APARTMENT!
LUCKILY I WAS ABLE TO SPREAD THE ALARM IN TIME! AFTER THAT WE REVIVED AND CAPTURED THE ONE LIZARD, AND TOOK HIM, AND ALL THE FLOWERS, BACK TO PLANET X-41...
I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF WE HAD LET THOSE FLOWERS MATURE ON EARTH!
A THOUSAND LIZARDS LIKE THIS COULD'VE CAUSED UNTOLD DESTRUCTION!!!
UN
FROM NOW ON, WE'LL HAVE TO BE REAL CAREFUL IN OUR EXPLORATION! OUR EARTH IS A MERE SPECK IN THE UNIVERSE AND OUR KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE FORMS IS LIMITED! IF WE WANT TO SURVIVE, WE'D BETTER TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED WHEN WE'RE OUT HERE AMONG THE STARS!
AND WHEN I WAS AGAIN ON EARTH, I COULDN'T HELP THINKING OF THE ONE IRONIC ASPECT OF THE WHOLE THING...
THAT LIZARD WAS A MIGHTY OPPONENT... BUT HE WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE HE DIDN'T TRY TO LEARN THE WAYS OF MAN! HE DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HE COULD HAVE HAD WATER...
...BY MERELY TURNING ON THIS FAUCET!
THE END

UNDERGROUND

ALTHOUGH most people in town spoke years ago of Doyle Fairless as a crackpot, no one dared mention such a thing in Sandy Clark's presence. The townsfolk doubted that Sandy had even seen Doyle since the fellow had moved into one of those fantastic underground houses far up on Smoky Mountain. The two men had been partners in the enterprise, and the talk around town was that they had a falling out about the business when it went bust. After that, Doyle and his wife had moved away to actually live in their unusual underground retreat. Sandy was silent on the subject, but people recognized him to be a man of loyalty. They knew better than to poke fun at Doyle and his wife if Sandy was anywhere within earshot.

The former business partnership was an outgrowth of a personal friendship that had its beginnings during the war when Doyle had risked his own life to save Sandy on the battlefield. Doyle had sustained injuries, and Sandy had devoted himself to the older man from that point on.

"If there's anything I can do to repay you . . . not that anything can really be valued at the price of a man's life . . . but if there's anything at all, I want you to tell me. I've a little money I've put by to set up my construction business back home, so . . ."

"Stop!" Doyle ordered forcefully. "I've heard enough foolishness for one day. You're my friend, Sandy, and for that I'm grateful."

Doyle had plans of his own after the war. He had seen enough misery to convince him that the future generation's hope lay in establishing a new way of life. The communities of the future must be planned to protect the populations against destruction. A man's home must be dug into the solid earth, and he had designed a revolutionary home that he hoped to market as an answer to that need.

Doyle's plans called for a subterranean house. He had worked out the details to each minute construction point. When the war was over he sought to introduce his product, but he didn't know the right people to contact.

His friend's promise was a hopeful one. He and his wife took the trip to Smoky Ridge and called on Sandy. Doyle outlined his idea with great eagerness.

"I know it can be done," he told Sandy. "What's more it's within the price limits of the average family. The house is protected not only from destruction, but from the elements of weather, too. It's easy to maintain, cool in summer, warm in winter. And it's completely safe!"

Sandy couldn't bear to put a damper on his friend's enthusiasm.

"Suppose I give you the capital you need to start in business for yourself . . ."

Doyle looked dejected. He picked up the blueprints and began to fold them away.

"Nothing doing," he said firmly. "All I want is for you to go in as my partner. But you have to have faith in this plan as *I* do. Otherwise, I'll keep looking elsewhere . . . even if it takes me all my life."

As soon as Sandy heard those words he knew that he couldn't refuse. "All my life . . ." The phrase would have no significance to him right now if Doyle hadn't offered Sandy's life to him by saving it with his valiant act of heroism.

Significantly, he extended his right hand to Doyle who gripped it solemnly. And so the partnership was formed. Sandy had to admit that his decision was an emotional one, and that his hard business head subsequently came between him and his friend until the final rift occurred. Instead of following through on Doyle's original plan to manufacture blueprints and set up a promotional campaign, Sandy convinced Doyle to first con-

CONTINUED

tract for the underground house and build one as an example. Actually, it was a delaying action to keep Doyle busy with his dream as long as he could. Sandy regarded the house as the whim of a hard-hit man trying to crawl from reality into a shell of his own imagination.

To his surprise, Doyle not only purchased the property on Smoky Mountain, but hired a crew to dig out the land. When he ran into a labor problem with workers who were a little uneasy about tackling the job, he recruited a group of miners to work the shafts and help with the basic construction.

The house was completed in record time, much to Sandy's amazement.

"We don't have to stop work because of bad weather when we're working beneath the earth's surface," Doyle explained confidently. "Sandy, this is not only a way of life for millions of people, but it's a personal fortune to us. Now all you have to do is contact people in the building field and we'll split the real estate market wide open."

Sandy agreed, but the cold logic of making a living through his own construction supplies business made him hesitate. He had a reputation growing, and a steady income trickling in for the first time in years. He was a little afraid of what people in the business would say if he sent out these wild plans under his own good name.

"Tell you what, Doyle. There's a business convention coming up next month. Why risk sending out stuff through the mails or even telephoning long distance? We'll go to the convention and lay it on the line to every concern in the industry. We'll give it all we've got!"

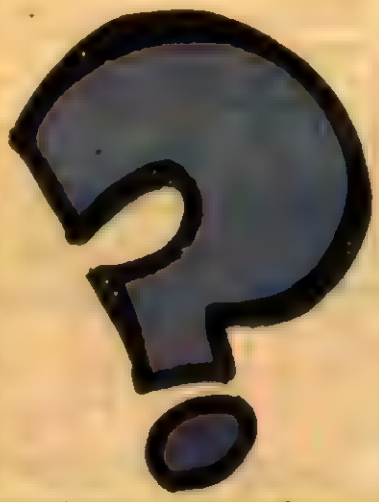
"But we're wasting time, Sandy," said Doyle seriously.

Their eyes met, and Sandy had to look away to conceal his embarrassment. Doyle could sense his hesitation.

The convention was the final straw. Sandy anticipated the professional reaction to Doyle's fantastic dream. He would never forget the pathetic figure that emerged from that meeting. Doyle was hooted down by the group of practical businessmen.

"It's the only answer to saving our civilization!" Doyle protested. "Before it's too late, gentlemen, I beg you . . ."

It was no use. When Sandy and Doyle returned defeated to



Smoky Ridge they saw the newspaper account of their fiasco. "Loony House Gets Laughs" the headline read.

"Loony house," Doyle repeated thoughtfully. "They don't know how right they are."

"What do you mean?" asked Sandy.

For the first time Doyle turned on him angrily.

"You foolish people! Don't you realize the handwriting is on the wall? For how many thousands of years have your scientists explored the solar system and the lunar sphere for signs of life? Senselessly you wonder why you do not see them? I'll tell you why! All of it is *underground*. Beneath the surface! And if we do not follow the lead there will be nothing left. You probably agree with them, though, and have all along. You've humored me, but you don't see the reality. Let's dissolve the partnership. I feel very deeply about this, Sandy, so let us make a bargain. Do not visit me until the day you change your mind about building beneath the earth's surface. It is only on that day that I will be able to face you again in partnership or friendship or both."

The rest of the story is of course known to all of us. A little man in the far away wilds of Tanganyika decided to build himself a retreat and appealed to Doyle for plans to help him. A wealthy businessman in Wall Street decided to construct a community of underground houses for his workers. Doyle master-minded the entire plan.

Today the world would laugh if anyone showed the old-fashioned pictures of pieces of houses sticking up stupidly into the air. We've long since forgotten what these strange devices were like to live in. Even our industrial plants are shadowed under the earth's surface.

When you pick up your morning newspaper there is only one man who is hooted at. "The Peculiar Fellow who roams the face of the Earth," as one account puts it, "is Sandy Clark . . . He lives in a Loony house on top of the ground."

Maybe it's pride, maybe it's faith that someday the world will spill out of its shell and come out into the sunlight again. He keeps waiting, hoping.

And that's why I wrote this story.

My name is Sandy Clark.

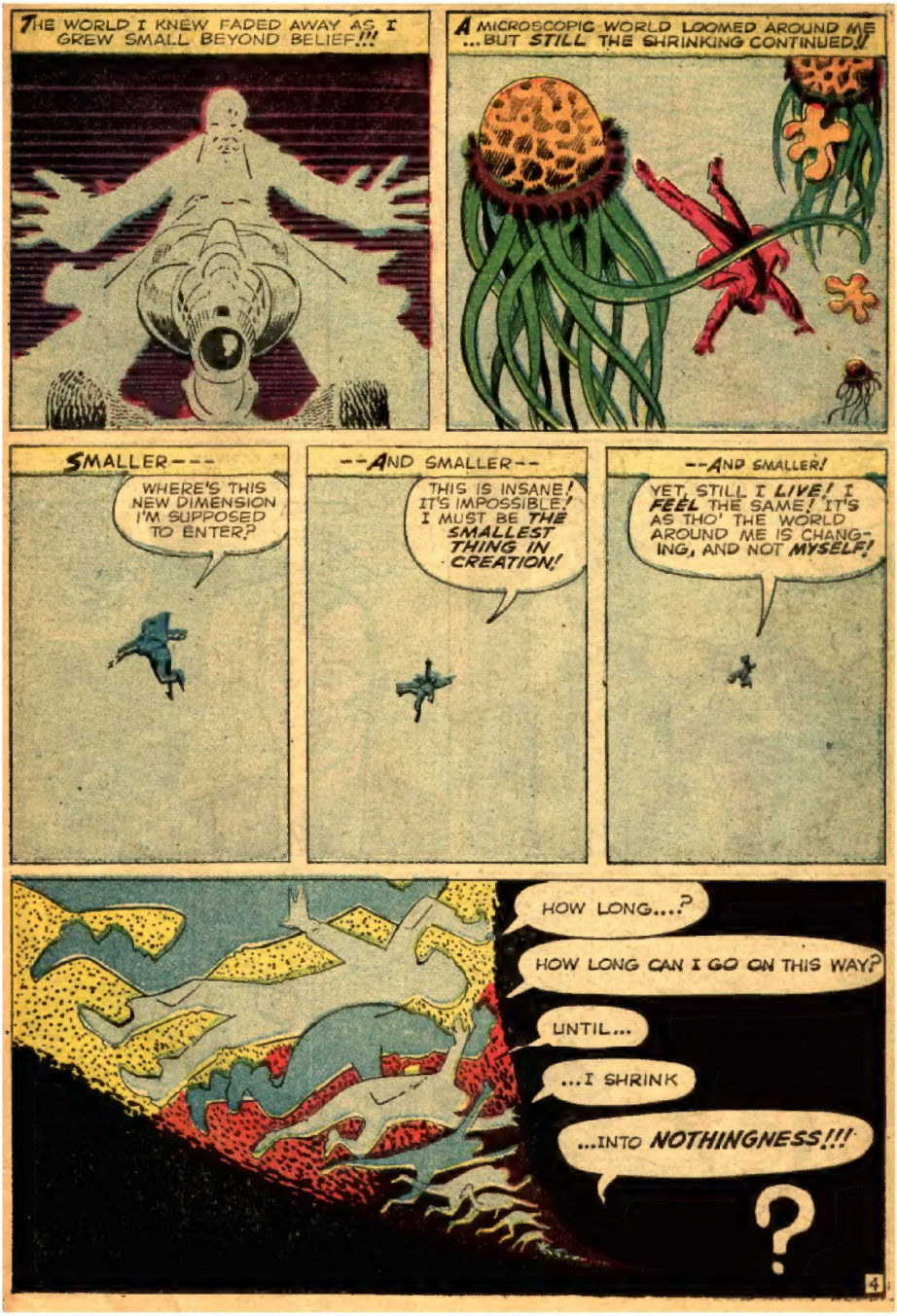
THE END

I SHRUNK AWAY TO NOTHING!

YOU MAY FIND THIS STORY HARD TO BELIEVE... BUT IT WILL MAKE YOU STOP AND THINK! IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED BEFORE!! IT MIGHT BE HAPPENING NOW!! OR POSSIBLY, IT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE! IT MIGHT HAPPEN TO ANYONE... AND WE WONDER IF YOU'LL DARE TO SAY... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
S. Ditko

ME, I'M A DRIFTER! I'VE TRAVELLED THE WORLD OVER--SEEING AND DOING EVERYTHING UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO EXCITE ME!!
I'M FED UP! THERE'S NOT A PLACE THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN TO... NOTHING I HAVEN'T DONE!
AND THEN, UNEXPECTEDLY, A SERIOUS SITUATION CALLED ME HOME!
BRAD, YOUR BROTHER, ED, NEEDS A MAJOR OPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
THAT COSTS MONEY, AND I'M BROKE!
SEE THAT HE GETS IT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL EXPENSES... SOMEHOW!
I SET OUT TO RAISE THE MONEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
PROFESSOR ACE, YOU HAVE AN AD ABOUT A MAN NEEDED FOR AN EXPERIMENT! WHAT'S THE PAY?
TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS! BUT IT'S DANGEROUS--THERE ARE UNKNOWN FACTORS INVOLVED!
HANG THE DANGER! I'M YOUR MAN!
YOU MAY CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR! SEE THAT MACHINE?...
UNTIL NOW, IT HAS BEEN USED ONLY ON ANIMALS! BUT NOW I WANT TO TURN ITS FANTASTIC RAY ON... A HUMAN BEING!!
TO SUM IT UP SIMPLY, THIS MACHINE GENERATES A SHRINKING RAY!! IT REDUCES THE SIZE OF LIVING MATTER!
WELL? WHERE ARE THOSE ANIMALS NOW?

THAT'S JUST IT!! I DON'T KNOW! IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, POSSIBLY! THEY'VE SIMPLY VANISHED! YOU SEE, ONCE THE SHRINKING STARTS, I CAN'T STOP IT... UNTIL THE SUBJECT GROWS SMALL AND VANISHES!
ANOTHER DIMENSION--BUNK! I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THAT SHRINKING STUFF, BUT I NEED THE MONEY!
I'M STILL GAME! MAKE OUT A CHECK AND LET ME GET A LETTER OFF!
I TOOK CARE OF IT! THE DOCTOR WILL GET THE MONEY TO OPERATE ON ED! AS FOR ME, IF THIS GADGET DOES WORK, IT'LL BE THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF ALL!
THE RAY IS ON! THERE'S NO STOPPING IT NOW!
I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING! HOW SOON WILL I--? HEY! I-- I AM SHRINKING!
IT'S TRUE!! THE BLAMED CONTRAPTION REALLY WORKS!
TELL ME, QUICKLY... HOW DO YOU FEEL? ARE THERE ANY SENSATIONS?
YEOW! TALK LOWER! YOUR VOICE IS HURTING MY EARDRUMS!
HE'S STILL SHRINKING! I STILL CAN'T CONTROL THE RAY! I'LL LOSE HIM, AS I'VE LOST THE ANIMALS!! WHAT CAN I DO?
HEY, PROFESSOR!! WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
YOU'LL JUST KEEP SHRINKING... INTO ANOTHER WORLD! YOU'RE EVEN GETTING TOO SMALL FOR THIS SPECIAL MICROSCOPE!
I--I CAN'T SEE THE PROFESSOR ANY MORE... JUST A HUGE BLUR!! EVERYTHING IS FADING!
HE'S GONE!--GONE TO WHERE NO HUMAN BEING HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE!
3


THE WORLD I KNEW FADED AWAY AS I GREW SMALL BEYOND BELIEF!!!
A MICROSCOPIC WORLD LOOMED AROUND ME ...BUT STILL THE SHRINKING CONTINUED!!
SMALLER---
WHERE'S THIS NEW DIMENSION I'M SUPPOSED TO ENTER?
--AND SMALLER--
THIS IS INSANE! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I MUST BE THE SMALLEST THING IN CREATION!
--AND SMALLER!
YET, STILL I LIVE! I FEEL THE SAME! IT'S AS THO' THE WORLD AROUND ME IS CHANGING, AND NOT MYSELF!
HOW LONG...?
HOW LONG CAN I GO ON THIS WAY?
UNTIL...
...I SHRINK
...INTO NOTHINGNESS!!!
?
4

SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING SEEMED TO STOP SPINNING! I DARED TO OPEN MY EYES... MY HEART BEAT LIKE A TRIP HAMMER!
I'M ALIVE! AND I'VE STOPPED SHRINKING!
BUT... BUT... WHERE AM I???
I'M IN A NEW WORLD... SO SMALL AS TO DEFY BELIEF!! OR WAS THE PROFESSOR RIGHT? IS IT A NEW DIMENSION?
YOU THERE -- WHERE AM I? IN THE NAME OF SANITY, TELL ME -- WHAT WORLD IS THIS???
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I HAD A HARD TIME CONVINCING THE STRANGER THAT I WASN'T JOKING, THEN FINALLY, WITH APPREHENSIVE TENSION, I LEARNED THE TRUTH...
IT'S FANTASTIC -- UNBELIEVABLE!!
MISTER, YOU MUST HAVE HAD A FEW TOO MANY! BETTER GO HOME AND SLEEP IT OFF!
HE WAS RIGHT!! THERE ARE OTHER WORLDS -- OTHER DIMENSIONS!! AND I'VE SHRUNK INTO ONE OF THEM! I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS, OR WHAT IT IS -- BUT FOREVERMORE, I TOO, WILL BE AN INHABITANT OF THIS STRANGE WORLD, THIS WORLD CALLED... EARTH!!
BUT I'LL ALWAYS WONDER... ALWAYS DOUBT... HOW MANY WORLDS CAN THERE BE -- SMALLER THAN THIS ONE?? WHERE DID IT START? WHERE DOES IT END? WILL MAN EVER KNOW THE SECRET??
IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY! YET, SCIENCE ADMITS THERE ARE ELECTRONS SO SMALL THAT A MILLION OF THEM COULD FIT ON THE HEAD OF A PIN!! THINK IT OVER... COULDN'T EACH ELECTRON BE A WORLD IN ITSELF?? COULDN'T IT???
KING SIZE HOT DOGS
MAIN STREET
KING
TAXI
THE END